

The listing of claims presented below replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of the claims

Claims 1-8 (cancel)

Claim 9 (Withdrawn) Use according to any one of the claims 1 to 8 in the manufacture of a composition that includes a viral vector bearing a polynucleotide sequence that expresses and codes for CT-1.

Claim 10 (Withdrawn) Use according to claim 9 characterized in that the viral vector is an adenovirus.

Claim 11 (Withdrawn) A method of cultivating hepatocytes, characterized in that CT-1 or a viral vector bearing a polynucleotide sequence that expresses and codes for CT-1 is added to the medium.

Claim 12 (Currently Amended) A method for stimulating hepatic regeneration comprising administration of an effective amount of cardiotrophin-1 (CT-1) ~~or a polynucleotide that encodes CT-1~~ to a patient in need thereof.

Claim 13 (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 12 for stimulating hepatic regeneration following surgical hepatectomy comprising administration of an effective amount of cardiotrophin-1 (CT-1) ~~or a polynucleotide that encodes CT-1~~ to a patient in need thereof.

Claim 14 (Currently Amended) A method for preventing damage to a liver comprising administration of an effective amount of cardiotrophin-1 (CT-1) ~~or a polynucleotide that encodes CT-1~~ to a patient in need thereof.

Claim 15 (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 12 wherein the need for hepatic regeneration results from a chronic liver disease.

Claim 16 (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 12 wherein the need for hepatic regeneration results from acute, subacute, fulminant or chronic hepatitis.

Claim 17 (Previously presented) The method according to claim 12 wherein the need for hepatic regeneration results from hepatic cirrhosis.

Claim 18 (Currently Amended ) The method according to claim 12 wherein the need for hepatic regeneration results ~~from~~ due to a liver transplant.

Claim 19 (Currently Amended) A method for treating an intrahepatic ~~tumors~~ tumor comprising administration of an effective amount of cardiotrophin-1 (CT 1) ~~or a polynucleotide that encodes CT-1~~ to a patient in need thereof.

Claim 20 (Cancel)

Claim 21 (Cancel)

Claim 22 (Cancel)

Claim 23 (Cancel)

Claim 24 (Cancel)

Claim 25 (Cancel)

Claim 26 (Cancel)

Claim 27 (Cancel)